IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A buffer tube for use in a fiber optic cable, the buffer tube comprised of an alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide.

2. (Original) The buffer tube of claim 1, wherein the alloy is blended with glass fiber.

3. (Original) A cable for transmitting a signal, the cable comprising:

at least one optical fiber for transmitting the signal;

at least one buffer tube for receiving the at least one optical fiber, the buffer tube comprised of an alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide; and

an outer jacket disposed around the at least one buffer tube.

4. (Original) The cable of claim 3, wherein the alloy is blended with glass fiber.

5. (Previously presented) A buffer tube for use in a fiber optic cable, the buffer tube comprised of a polymeric material having a flexural modulus greater than about 180 kpsi at room temperature and having a flexural modulus less than about 370 kpsi at room temperature.

6. (Original) A communication cable containing a buffer tube, the buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture containing polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide.

7. (Original) A communications system containing a cable, the cable containing a buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture containing polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide.

8. (Original) A method of making a buffer tube for a communication cable, comprising:

providing a polymer mixture of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide;

melting the polymer mixture; and

extruding the melted polymer mixture.

9. (Original) A method for communicating, comprising:

providing a cable with a buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide; and

transmitting a signal over the cable.

10. (Original) The buffer tube of claim 1, wherein the buffer tube comprises two layers with a first layer containing an alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide, a second layer containing an alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide, or both the first and the second layer containing an alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide.

11. (Currently amended) The buffer tube of claim 1, wherein the alloy is filled~~, contains an antioxidant, contains a processing aid, or a combination thereof.~~

12. (New) The buffer tube of claim 1, wherein the alloy contains an antioxidant, a processing aid, or a combination thereof.

13. (New) A buffer tube for use in a fiber optic cable, the buffer tube comprised of an alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide, wherein the buffer tube has a flexural modulus at room temperature ranging from about 180 kpsi to about 370 kpsi.